



Board of Mineral County Commissioners

Hawthorne, Nevada
February 19, 2014

The Honorable Board of Mineral County Commissioners met this day in a regular session with the following people present:

Honorable Jerrie Tipton
Honorable Clifford Cichowlaz
Honorable Paul MacBeth
Honorable Cherrie George

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Member
Clerk-Treasurer

Absent:

Honorable Sean Rowe

District Attorney

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Safety Message

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cichowlaz.

Safety message was provided by Commissioner Cichowlaz relative to hazardous communications, written safety plans, safety data sheets, etc. in the workplace.

2. Reports and Correspondence:

Letter, undated, received February, 7, 2014, from the Mineral County Deputy Sheriff's Association relative to their intent to begin negotiations for 2014.

3. Minutes of February 5 and 6, 2014 presented for review and possible action:

The Minutes of February 5 and 6, 2014 were presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

Public Comment: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner Cichowlaz, seconded by Commissioner MacBeth and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Minutes of February 5 and 6, 2014 as presented.

4. Business License Applications – The following business license applications were presented for consideration and possible action:

A. Donald C. Weaver; Alterations Boutique; 121 English Street, Hawthorne; New Applicant

Linda Larson stated this was an in-home business for the time being. Mr. Weaver stated he was a tailor and business would be in his home.

Public Comment: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner Cichowlaz, seconded by Commissioner MacBeth and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the application of Alterations Boutique.

B. Merlin J. Hall; Barley's, 822 Sierra Way, Hawthorne, Change in Ownership/Entity

Building Inspector Mike Fontaine stated he has to add some conditions, primarily grease trap and back flow prevention need to be certified; discussion ensued; Commissioner Tipton directed Mr. Fontaine and Larry Grant of Hawthorne Utilities to contact Mr. Hall relative to conditions.

C. Lonnie E. Fixel; Coit Services of Reno, LLC; Countywide; New Applicant

Mr. Fontaine stated this was an "after the fact" situation.

Public Comment: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner MacBeth, seconded by Commissioner Cichowlaz and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the application of Coit Services of Reno, LLC.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner Cichowlaz, seconded by Commissioner MacBeth and unanimously carried by the Board to recess the regular Board meeting and convene the Liquor Board.

5. Liquor License Applications – The following liquor application was presented for discussion and possible action:

A. Darlene Doyle; Buffalo Stop; 847 Frontage Road, Walker Lake; New Applicant (Adding liquor to existing business)

Public Comment: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner Cichowlaz, seconded by Commissioner MacBeth and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the liquor license application of Buffalo Stop.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner MacBeth, seconded by Commissioner Cichowlaz and unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the Liquor Board and reconvene regular Board meeting.

6. **Honorable Stewart Handte, Sheriff** – For consideration and possible action relative to internet access to websites.

Sheriff Handte asked what needed to be done to get access to certain websites. Clerk Cherrie George explained how the Sophos security appliance operated and how access to blocked sites would be granted upon individual user request.

7. For consideration and possible action relative to solution to the recent loss of communication with the north part of the County/Schurz tower.

Mr. Handte provided a summary of the situation and his concerns; stated only reliable resource was Glen Bunch; would like to enter into a contract with Mr. Bunch because he is local and available. Public Works Director Mike Trujillo stated Public Works hadn't been involved in this situation for years so his staff wasn't aware of what had been previously done; Mr. Trujillo did attempt to do what he could and contacted Sierra Electronics but they weren't readily available due to a scheduling conflict. Discussion ensued relative to using Sierra Electronics for these types of service; comments were provided by Mr. Bunch relative to his experience and specific training received for the current system; Commissioner Cichowlaz suggested that Mr. Bunch consider contracting with Sierra Electronics as a local service representative.

Mr. Trujillo was asked to coordinate with Sierra Electronics and come back to the Board in 2 weeks for further discussion and possibility of entering into a contract. Further discussion ensued. Comments were made by Recorder-Auditor Christine Hoferer relative to action at last meeting regarding work being done on County buildings by someone without contractor's license and liability to County; further discussion ensued relative to training County personnel so they could do the work in the future.

Comments were made by Gary Moody relative to County liability issue as previously discussed.

The Board directed the Sheriff to contact Public Works in the future and Mr. Trujillo would either contact Mr. Bunch or Sierra Electronics depending on severity of situation..

8. **Courtney Oberhansli, Librarian** – For consideration and possible action relative to appointment of three members to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for a term of 4 years; letters of interest received from Sandra Essenpreis, Sue Banks, Thomas Castagnola and Lynda Miller.

Ms. Oberhansli provided summary of current situation of the Library Board of Trustees; three members' terms had already expired; provided summary of statute relative to terms of Library Board members. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner Cichowlaz, seconded by Commissioner MacBeth and unanimously carried by the Board to appoint Thomas Castagnola to a 1 year term, Sandra Essenpreis to a 2 year term and Lynda Miller to a 3 year term as members of the Library Board of Trustees.

9. **Terri Knutson** – For consideration and possible action relative to BLM program updates, including an update on the Luning Solar Project.

Ms. Knutson provided program updates relative to the Luning Solar Project; other renewable energy; medical marijuana and the fact that BLM wouldn't allow these establishments on BLM land; wild horses and burros issue; Sportsman's Beach boat ramp project not making much progress; opening on the Sierra Front Resource Advisory Council, need a Native American representative and elected official representative, Commissioner Tipton volunteered to serve if another elected official couldn't be found, Commissioner Cichowlaz also expressed interest.

10. **Honorable Cherrie George, Clerk-Treasurer** – For consideration and possible action relative to opportunity for volume purchase discount for computer and/or software upgrades necessary due to Microsoft's non-support of XP expected early April 2014.

Ms. George advised that she was working with Zones to acquire a volume purchase discount for Windows XP to Windows 7 upgrades and/or replacing computers that don't meet the required upgrade specifications; ADS technician would be onsite in a week or two and would go around to each department to gather data; would like to have cooperation from each department; hoped to be able to provide pricing during budget hearings which could be added to each department budget at that time. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Commissioner Cichowlaz, seconded by Commissioner MacBeth and unanimously carried by the Board to request department heads and elected officials to cooperate with ADS personnel in obtaining computer inventory.

11. **Honorable Jerrie Tipton, Commissioner** – for consideration and possible action relative to potential economic impacts to Mineral County on critical habitat designation of the Bi-state Great Sage-grouse to assist Industrial Economics in their analysis of areas proposed as critical but unoccupied areas.

Comments were made by Commissioner Tipton relative to the analysis being conducted by Industrial Economics; review of determined critical habitat designation maps; discussion ensued.

12. **Honorable Paul MacBeth, Commissioner** – For consideration and possible action relative to update on the Mineral County Renewable Energy Program.

Comments were made by Commissioner MacBeth relative to Ormat generating energy for Southern California; projected property taxes over next 20 years; recognized and complimented previous Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission for approving the project; discussion ensued relative to projected tax revenue and abatements, economic impact; other renewable energy projects and economic impact to County. Comments were made by Fire Chief T.C. Knight relative to project.

Public Comment: Mr. Knight stated he had been contacted by Lantis Pyrotechnics and Lasers relative to providing fireworks for possible fireworks display on Fourth of July under direction of Fire Department which could be provided for less than if provided by other agencies; Commissioner MacBeth asked Mr. Knight to take matter before the Fair and Recreation Board.

General discussion ensued relative to fire suppression system for old Courthouse

Public Comment: Stephen Gustafson advised that Golden Gate Petroleum was moving ahead for purchase of land for truck stop; provided maps of proposed site(s).

TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS:

- 1:30 PM **Keith Neville** – For consideration and possible action relative to dumping fees at landfill.

Comments were made by Mr. Neville relative to the \$5 dump fee; doesn't think it's a good plan – too many concerns; recommends raising the assessment \$1.50 with .75 to a reserve account and the other .75 to use for cleaning up the desert; comments relative to trash blowing from dump into desert; comments relative to new sewer system and increase in those fees; sewer back-up problems and health concerns due to sewage in the streets; recommends getting a working group/committee together to study the dumping issues; some people are blaming contractor for having to pay the dumping fee.

Discussion ensued relative to landfill closure; \$5 dumping fee not going into effect until July 1, 2014; challenges of installing scale at landfill; segregation of different types of waste; previous discussions during public meetings relative to dumping and landfill issues, including assessments and fees, construction and demolition dumping; assessments on vacant properties and appeals opportunities; approximate \$30,000 deficit in landfill operations; previous assessment increase proposals by Hawthorne Utilities; language on previous agendas related only to contractor issues, not dump fee increases; need to clean up the desert; need to come up with a solution soon due to timeframe of applying landfill assessments and appeals process; possibility of increasing landfill assessments rather than charging a dump fee; the need to address construction waste being hauled to landfill by contractors and others.

Comments were made by Harold Dimmick relative to trash in desert; charging fees at Hawthorne dump but not charging fees to Mina and Luning; inconsistencies in being told where to dump various items at the landfill.

Comments were made by Richard Bryant relative to dedicated effort in cleaning up the desert as much as possible during 8 years as County Commissioner but no cooperation from then Sheriff's Office; allowed free dumping at landfill to encourage people to dump at landfill instead of the

desert; wouldn't have issue with charging extra for construction waste being dumped; didn't understand how a contractor could have been in arrears for so much; would like the opportunity to review the landfill budget to see why it is in a deficit; doesn't think the \$5 at the gate is a viable solution because it would only encourage people to litter the desert again.

Stephen Gustafson suggested meeting on Friday afternoon to try to find another solution and bring back to the Board in 2 weeks.

Comments were made by Ms. Hoferer relative to budgets and audits being public record and if any questions these records could be reviewed by anyone.

Board of Highway Commissioners

No business

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Recognition

None

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting of the Board adjourned until Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:00 AM.

A verbatim recording of this meeting has been prepared and by reference becomes a part thereof.

Approved: **Board of County Commissioners**

By: 
Jerrie Tipton, Chairman

Date: March 5, 2014

Attest:


Cherrie George, Clerk of the Board